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# ANSWER IT

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## ***U.S. Army Launches eCYBERMISSION Project as a Vision for America's Youth***

***Ed Brown***

With a strong focus on the future, a future to be characterized by today's youth, the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Manpower and Reserve Affairs has embarked on an educational project known as eCYBERMISSION. In partnership with the Army, the ANSWER SDC issued a task order to Booz.Allen & Hamilton valued at \$2.5 Million on March 26<sup>th</sup>.

The eCYBERMISSION project is in direct support of the Army's vision for America's youth that entails stimulating interest in math and science education among middle and high school students through increased commitment and participation by the Army in web-based science fairs/outreach programs. An important component of this initiative is to partner with industry, government, teachers and students and enlist their support. The Army will leverage its own resources with those of its partners to provided assistance in the form of computer equipment, software, expertise, and recognition.

eCYBERMISSION seeks to promote a sense of community interest and involvement. The Army's vision for this project is for it to be seen as the premier math, science and technology forum for America's youth, increasing exposure for all students to the fields of study associated with these disciplines, while meeting the increasing staffing demands of a global market. Preliminary efforts included stakeholder analysis, business case development, systems and content design, marketing and communications efforts, and will now continue with the development of system components and functionality. The components and functions include Team Talk full threaded discussion, Instant Messaging (IM), and Chat Room functionality integration; Mission Upload file locking functionality for document version control/configuration management; registration search function; and initiation of the Virtual Tour development.

## ***Gallup Q12 Spurs Team Momentum for ANSWER SDC***

***Bill Archambeault***

This month, the ANSWER SDC held a Q12 Team Offsite to develop a Strategic Impact Plan for 2002 to address two of the Gallup Q12 elements. To construct the plan, the team employed a four phase approach: 1) using the John Wooden Pyramid of Success 2) determining individual team members' Adversity Quotient, 3) identifying Catalytic Mechanisms within the organization, and 4) defining two Q12 priorities that will have the greatest strategic impact on the organization for the coming year.

The Wooden model provided the team an opportunity to evaluate organizational strengths in the context of baseline qualities such as enthusiasm and cooperation to the top-level attributes of confidence and competitive greatness.

The Adversity Quotient (AQ) is a  
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## ***ANSWER Report Readied for OMB***

***Sherrie Householder***

The ANSWER SDC has completed its mid-year report for the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The report details task awards under ANSWER with specific focus on order value, agency distribution, the extent to which fair opportunity was provided, past performance statistics, the use of performance-based contracting, socio-economic status of the Industry Partners, and income and expenses for the ANSWER SDC.

Analysis of the report shows a four-fold increase in awards of firm-fixed price task orders, and a consistent move toward performance-based contracting with almost 30% of this year's newly issued task orders having the attributes of performance-based contracting.

In light of the areas to which OMB  
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(Continued – Gallup Q12 Spurs Team Momentum) statistical analysis of an individual's ability to harness daily situations that present challenges and difficulties in both their personal and professional lives. By learning and understanding their AQ, team members looked toward fostering greater control and ownership of difficult situations, limiting the extent of the adversity, and building endurance and the spirit of resilience through successive challenges.

Catalytic mechanisms define tangible processes that define, execute, and manage change within an organization. The ANSWER team examined ways to redistribute action and activity over the entire organization and its partners, and focused on a hierarchy of engagement that would bring ANSWER ideas from invention (novelty) to innovation (novelty applied).

To define priorities that would have the greatest strategic impact, the ANSWER team utilized the 2002 Gallup Workplace Survey Results for GSA as a benchmark to develop an impact plan. This comparative analysis allowed the team to identify work initiatives that would, a) provide the greatest opportunity for personal and professional growth, b) add focus to our mission, c) bestow encouragement and recognition for individual development, and d) make available the best tools for success.

Team activity was guided and mentored by Renee Bishop and Darlene Olson, Region 9 advocates and leaders for the Q12.

The end result of the offsite was a workable yet challenging Impact Plan. The plan is comprised of a matrix of well-defined actions, accountability, deliverables, and timelines; and builds on individual strengths while encouraging each team member to stretch and grow.

(Continued – ANSWER Report Readied for OMB)

attaches the highest levels of attention and concern, the SDCs recognize the importance of providing an ongoing venue for information exchange with the CSCs. To this end, the SDCs continue to offer and conduct seminars and forums at FTS locations throughout the country. The sessions bring primary focus to the appropriate use of GWACs. Of particular note is the level of interest and exchange on the topics of performance-based requirements definition and the arena of appropriate logical follow-on activity.

### ***ANSWER Crosses Billion \$\$\$ Mark in Funded Task Awards***

*Ann Gladys*

In light of the milestone event of crossing the billion-dollar funding threshold of task orders, it seems appropriate to take a quick look at some overall "factoids" related to the contract.

- ◆ As of March 31<sup>st</sup>, more than 1300 task orders have been awarded under ANSWER.
- ◆ Some 4800 IT professionals are employed by the ANSWER Industry Partners in support of ANSWER.
- ◆ The geographic scope of the ANSWER projects extends across 37 states, and 21 countries.
- ◆ The use of ANSWER by civilian agencies has grown from 11% of FY99 orders to 23% of new FY02 orders.
- ◆ Five of the Industry Partners have exceeded their pre-award past performance survey scores in the third Past Performance Survey conducted last month.

### ***ANSWER SDC Studies High Demand Technology Areas for ANSWER Contract***

*By Jill Schillinger*

During the past month, a retrospective analysis of ANSWER task orders was performed to identify the A-List clients and the technology areas where the preponderance of IT requirements exists within the contract. The study revealed high demand for solutions in the areas of Web Development, Applied Science and Engineering, Information Assurance, and Systems Integration. Of the hundreds of ANSWER projects, the following serve as examples of the important solutions fostered by the FTS CSCs and the ANSWER Industry Partners.

In support of the CDC, Valerie Kalschur of Region 4 and CSC have provided full-scale support for the electronic links inherent to the surveillance activities associated with the dissemination of disease-related information.

Gary Duffala's R5 project with DynCorp for the Navy focuses on systems development for the ops research side of naval surface warfare with an emphasis on the modeling and simulation aspects, and the mathematical and technical sides of electronic component areas.

Using biometric technology to control system and network access for the Army is the heart of Tony Stevens project with ISS. This Region 9 task brings to bear the significant elements of modeling and simulation to biometric-ready programs for information assurance.

Providing IT solutions to the global mobility challenges of the Air Force is Wendi Harriman's project. Corporate integration is at the core of this Region 5 systems integration project with Logicon.

### ***Mid April - May Events***

Date: 4/8 – 4/12  
Location: Ft. Worth, TX  
Event: Sol. Edu – Source Select

Date: 4/15 – 4/17  
Location: Orlando, FL  
Event: Network Serv. Conf.

Date: 4/22 – 4/26  
Location: Scottsdale, AZ  
Event: Sol. Edu - PBSOW

Date: 4/22 – 4/25  
Location: Rancho Las Palmas  
Event: ANSWER Tech Refresh III

Date: 4/30  
Location: Washington, DC  
Event: FORUM

Date: 5/1  
Location: Philadelphia, PA  
Event: FORUM

Date: 5/6 - 5/10  
Location: Philadelphia, PA  
Event: Sol. Edu – PBSOW

Date: 5/21  
Location: Denver, CO  
Event: FORUM

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